



Michigan

Emergency Management & Homeland Security News

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Nearly 600 People Attend Annual Summit Conference

Agenda Includes Speakers, Training, Exhibits, Awards Banquet and Hazmat Team Challenge

An estimated 600 emergency management professionals were on hand Oct. 9-11 for the Summit at Grand Traverse Resort in Acme, Mich. The annual conference featured 60 workshops, numerous speakers, a trade show, awards banquet, golf outing, and ample networking opportunities.

This year's theme was "Building a Better Tomorrow With Yesterday's Experience." The conference is hosted by the Michigan Emergency Management Association (MEMA) and the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD) of the Michigan State Police.

Former FEMA Director Michael Brown was one of the keynote speakers during opening session. Other speakers were Major Jason Awadi of the Michigan National Guard, 51st Civil Support Team; FEMA Region V Director Edward Buikema; and Norris Beren of the Emergency Preparedness Educational Institute.

During the MEMA Awards Banquet, Capt. Eddie Washington presented the prestigious Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Award to Richard Winsett, Livingston County emergency services coordinator. (See awards list below.)

MEMA 2006 Award Winners

PEM of the Year: Richard Winsett, Livingston County

MEMA/MSP/EMHSD Employee of the Year: Lori Hornbeck

Response 2006: Jerry McCoy, Montcalm County

Recovery 2006: Jerry McCoy, Montcalm County

Preparedness 2006: Jack Messer, Charlevoix-Cheboygan-Emmet Counties

Mitigation 2006: Jim Gorka, Kalamazoo County

Volunteer < 60,000: David Fowler, Osceola County

Volunteer > 60,000: Charlie Chapman, Kalamazoo County

Local Coordinator < 60,000: Mark Watkins, Osceola County

Local Coordinator > 60,000: Jerry McCoy, Montcalm County

Thomas E. Harper Memorial - Distinguished Service: Dr. Bill Phales, Region 5

Special Community Award: Kalamazoo County

President's Award: Jerry McCoy, Montcalm County



Col. Peter C. Munoz, flanked by Lt. Col. Kriste Kibbey Etue and Lt. Col. Timothy Yungfer, delivered the Summit opening address.



Hazmat Team Challenge participants overpack a patched drum for disposal at the Plug, Patch & Overpack station.



More than 50 vendors displayed their wares during the Summit.



Montcalm County Emergency Services Director Jerry McCoy speaks at the MEMA banquet.



Former FEMA Director Michael Brown addresses the Summit general session.



Contestants suit up for competition in the Hazmat Team Challenge.

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In the Trenches with Capt. Eddie Washington

A few months ago, I took the helm as commander of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD). I am happy to be here, and look forward to getting to know more of my co-workers and colleagues in the coming months.

As we examine world and local events in 2006, the importance and significance of our mission cannot be overstated. There are many challenges and much hard work that lies ahead for us.

In the past few years, we have witnessed terrorist attacks, learned about the threat of CBRNE weapons, and observed the destructive power of Mother Nature in the form of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, floods, and a massive heat wave.

The mission of EMHSD is to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and aid in recovery from disasters, whether they are natural or human-caused. Obviously, we have our work cut out for us!

During the next few months, I look forward to discussing important issues such as regionalization and soliciting your candid

feedback. Matter of fact, I prefer candor because it helps get to the root of an issue without delay.

When we put our heads together, we can develop priorities and initiatives that are well thought out and ultimately effective.



Working together, we can determine how best to serve the people of Michigan and be the leaders we are called to be.

“When we put our heads together, we can develop priorities and initiatives that are well thought out and ultimately effective.”

Make no mistake, as Col. Peter C. Munoz stated in his Summit conference address, we are all leaders in one capacity or another.

Over the years, I have had the benefit of being mentored by individuals who instilled in me the importance of leadership and service.

From what I have observed already, service and leadership are high priorities in the emergency management and homeland security professions.

Clearly, we are blessed with an abundance of talented and dedicated professionals committed to serving the public, people who are leaders.

We at EMHSD recognize how hard you work, and we are striving to be a valuable resource for you. We seek to encourage leadership and innovation, to inspire new and improved directions.

I am grateful to Colonel Munoz for giving me the opportunity to lead the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.

More importantly, I am confident all of us will collectively meet the challenges ahead and live up to the expectations of the people we serve — our neighbors in the State of Michigan.

SARA Title III Workshops Help Facilities With Hazardous Chemical Inventory

Four workshops are slated in January to instruct on compliance with hazardous inventory reporting requirements.

Presented by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the workshops cover completion and submission of the online Tier Two report as required by Title III of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA Title III).

SARA Title III requirements on emergency planning notification and chemical release reporting will also be addressed.

The workshop dates and locations are:

Jan. 16 -- Hotel Baronette, Novi;
Jan. 18 -- Prince Conference Center,

Calvin College, Grand Rapids;
Jan. 23 -- Comfort Inn & Suites, Mt. Pleasant; and
Jan. 25 -- Lansing Community College, West Campus, Lansing.

This workshop is recommended for owners, operators, and environmental and safety personnel of facilities that have hazardous materials on site.

SARA Title III, also known as the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act, requires facilities to report information that can be vital to

the community's safety.

More than 6,000 facilities in Michigan annually submit Tier Two hazardous chemical inventory reports to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs), and local fire departments.

This workshop is recommended for owners, operators, and environmental and safety personnel of facilities that have hazardous materials on site.

Environmental consultants, LEPCs, and fire department personnel can also benefit and are encouraged to attend.

A full brochure and online registration are available at www.michigan.gov/deqworkshops.

National Weather Service Announces 'Stormready' Communities

Bay County has been recognized by the National Weather Service (NWS) as StormReady, while four other communities were recently re-certified in the program.

In a ceremony held at the Bay County Emergency Operations Center, Richard Wagenmaker of the NWS presented a recognition letter and special StormReady signs to Bay County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Paul Cormier.

Additionally, the counties of St. Clair and Washtenaw, and the cities of Sterling Heights and Dearborn Heights were re-certified for three more years.

To be recognized as StormReady, a community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center;
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings and to alert the public;
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions;



- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars; and
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan, which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

"StormReady encourages communities to proactively improve local hazardous weather operations and promote public awareness," said Richard Pollman, warning coordination meteorologist at the NWS weather forecast office in White Lake.

"StormReady arms communities with improved communication and safety skills needed to save lives and property – both before and during a severe weather event."

The nationwide community preparedness program partners local NWS forecast offices with state and local emergency managers to help communities develop plans to handle severe weather and flooding threats.

StormReady began in 1999 with seven Oklahoma communities. As of Nov. 1, there were 1,116 StormReady communities across the United States. The StormReady recognition is effective for three years, when the recipient needs to go through a re-certification process.

"The United States is the most severe weather prone region of the world," Pollman said. "The mission of the National Weather Service is to reduce the loss of lives and property from these storms, and StormReady will help us create better prepared communities throughout the country."

"Just like communities, families need to be prepared by having an action plan for severe weather," Pollman added. "Through StormReady, the National Weather Service plans to educate every American about what to do when severe weather strikes, because it is ultimately each individual's responsibility to protect him or herself."

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Coalition Conducts Emergency Preparedness Training

Michigan has about 1.4 million people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The Michigan Coalition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People has made it a priority to ensure emergency preparedness agencies and first responders can communicate with this population.

The Coalition recently teamed up with the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) to provide emergency preparedness training for first responders and people who are deaf, blind, and hard of hearing.

A total of 74 people from across Michigan attended the training on Aug. 28 at Cadillac Place in downtown Detroit. Sixth District Coordinator Lt. Brian Whitsett represented the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division.

First responders learned about hearing assistive technology and people with hearing loss learned ways to help themselves in the event of a disaster or emergency.

The training was provided at no cost thanks to financial

support from CEPIN, a two-year project funded by a U.S. Department of Homeland Security grant.

The following Coalition members participated: Sign Language Services of Michigan; Division on Deaf and Hard of Hearing (part of the Michigan Commission for Disability Concerns); Michigan Association for Deaf and Hard of Hearing; Deaf and Hearing Impaired Services; DB Central; and Connections for Deaf Citizens.



Mike Monge of the Faribault (Minn.) Fire Department discusses first responders' interactions with Deaf and hard of hearing people while an interpreter provides sign language. Behind them a screen displays Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) verbatim text.

2006 Hazmat Team Challenge



The Washtenaw County Hazmat Team took First Place in the 2006 Hazmat Challenge. From left are Brad Tanner, Craig Liggett, EMHSTC's Ed Halcomb, Scott Maddison, and Jeff French.

Five teams competed in the third annual Hazmat Team Challenge in Acme, Mich. The Washtenaw County Hazmat Team took first place. Finishing second and third, respectively, were the Sterling Heights Fire Department and Western Wayne Hazmat Team.



Finishing second in the 2006 Hazmat Team Challenge was the Sterling Heights Fire Department. From left are Matthew Ratliff, Bonnie DeMeyere, EMHSTC's Ed Halcomb, William Walker, and Robert Duke.

Hazmat Team Challenge participants work at the "Identify the Unknown" station, documenting the physical and chemical characteristics of a sample of an unknown substance.



Report Summarizes 2005 Hazardous Events

The first annual report summarizing data from Michigan's *Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance* (HSEES) is now available on the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) website -- www.michigan.gov/mdch-toxics. Under "Products and Services" click on "What's New".)

HSEES, maintained by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, compiles information about acute releases of hazardous substances and their public health consequences in Michigan and 14 other participating states.

Of 383 reported Michigan events in 2005, 67 percent occurred at fixed facilities, and the remainder were associated with transportation. The most commonly reported substances were carbon monoxide, ammonia, and sodium hydroxide.

During this reporting period, 82 events (21.4 percent) resulted in an injury, involving a total of 209 victims, three of whom died. The most frequently reported injuries were respiratory irritation, headache, and dizziness. Evacuations were ordered for 29 events (7.6 percent). Decontaminations took place for 36 injured individuals and 251 uninjured, involving 17 events.

Implementation of a system is underway to alert local public health officials of significant releases in their jurisdictions, as part of the integration of Michigan HSEES into the state's public health emergency preparedness. Additionally, MDCH has initiated rulemaking to mandate reporting of chemical poisonings, which will improve identification of HSEES qualifying events.

For more information or a copy of the report, contact Martha Stanbury (stanburym@michigan.gov or 517-335-8364).



Two contestants in the Hazmat Team Challenge simulate carrying a victim away from a hazardous scene.

EM&HS News Seeks Readership Input

In an effort to find out how we can better serve your information needs, we are asking for your input.

We want to learn about our readership makeup, which parts of the newsletter are most helpful to you, and your suggestions for improvement.

Please take a couple of minutes to answer a few questions at the web address below. When finished, you may submit your responses with the click of a mouse.

The survey can be found at:
<http://websurveyor.net/wsb.dll/39262/EMHSReaderSurvey.htm>

(The hyperlink to this web page is also contained in the email message used to distribute this newsletter.)

We appreciate your assistance, and thank you for your readership.

UPCOMING TRAINING

EMHSD TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



The Training Section of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division offers various emergency management workshops free of charge.

For exact times and locations, and to register, please log onto www.michigan.gov/emhsd (click on "Training" link). Questions may be directed to Lori Hornbeck at 517-333-5036 or HornbecL@michigan.gov.

<u>Course</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>
PIO Training for Region 6 public health officials	November 21	Lansing
City Managers Training - Leadership in Crisis	November 30	Mt. Pleasant
Legal Issues in Emergency Management	December 1	Lansing
No Spills Conference	January 22-24	Traverse City
ISC/EOC Interface	January 9-10, 2007	Lansing
CERT Train the Trainer	January 23-24, 2007	Grand Rapids
Disaster Assistance Workshop	January 30-31, 2007	Ottawa County

The Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center trains public and private sector personnel responsible for hazardous materials planning, response, and cleanup along with specialized and technical rescue operations.

The Center is located at 7426 Osborn, Lansing, MI 48913. For more information, contact Stacy Schneider at 517-322-6515 or schneids@michigan.gov. Online registration is at www.michigan.gov/emhsd (click on "Training" link.)

<u>Course</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Unified Incident Command System	November 20-21	\$275
Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents	November 21	No Cost
National Incident Management System (NIMS)	November 22	\$80
CBRNE/WMD Defensive Ops for Health Care Professionals	November 27-28	\$260
CBRNE/WMD Defensive Ops for Health Care Professionals (Train-the-Trainer)	November 29	\$125
Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents	December 12	No Cost
CAMEO Suite	January 8-11	\$375
Hazardous Waste Operations 8-hour Refresher (HAZWOPER)	January 12	\$125
CBRNE/WMD Awareness (AWR-160)	January 16	\$125
Air Monitoring for Hazardous Materials	January 17-19	\$325
Prevention and Response to Suicide Bombing Incidents	January 23	No Cost
Chemistry I	January 24-26	\$375
Emergency Response Planning for Hazmat Incidents	January 29-30	\$225

Summit Provides Training, Networking and Friendly Competition

Conference attendees benefit from workshops, speakers, Hazmat Challenge



Participants listen closely during one of the 60 Summit workshops. Topics included pandemic influenza outreach, wireless communications, evacuation during a major fire, and handling the news media during a crisis.

Major Jason Awadi of the Michigan National Guard, 51st Civil Support Team, discusses 'Bridging the Gap,' a rundown on military support available to civil authorities.



Chris Weber of the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Training Center conducts a workshop on chemical bonding and portable forensics equipment.



EMHSD's Capt. Eddie Washington addresses the Michigan Emergency Management Association awards banquet. MEMA board members join him at the head table.

The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme, Mich., hosted the Summit for the third consecutive year. The fall conference will return to the resort in October 2007.



Jay Roorbach, coordinator of the Michigan Citizen Corps, provides an overview of the program.



A Summit general session audience listens to Edward Buikema, FEMA Region V Director. Buikema, a former captain with the MSP Emergency Management Division, spoke on "Lessons Learned from the 2005 Hurricane Season."



MEMA President Jim Van Bendegom and Capt. Eddie Washington present EMHSD Trainer Lori Hornbeck with the MEMA-MSP/EMHSD Employee of the Year Award.

Washtenaw Community College Provides Valuable Assistance to the State

A big thank you is in order for Mr. Neil Gudsen and Ms. Nancy Howard of Washtenaw Community College's (WCC) Department of Lifelong Education.

Gudsen and Howard have assisted in providing complimentary computer lab use for international, federal, state and local emergency management and homeland security on-line training.

Communication between the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) and the college's staff began in the spring of 2005, when the state was ramping up critical incident management training for the Major

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Eric Nischan and Jaclyn Barcroft of the EMHSD Technical and Operational Support Section (TOSS) trained U.S. Civil Air Patrol staff along with personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard on Aug. 31 at Washtenaw Community College.



League Baseball All-Star and NFL Super Bowl games in Detroit. Attendees at WCC's lab for training prior to these major events included: Windsor Police Service, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals, Michigan State Police, City of Dearborn Police Department, Washtenaw County, Wayne County Sheriff, Allen Park Police Department, and GM's Global Security.

Effective reporting and information sharing between these organizations and others continues to provide

streamlined mitigation and response to potential and actual emergency situations, even after the major sporting events.

Having a high-tech lab to use at WCC provided metro Detroit area responders with a professional and convenient workspace.

The relationship between WCC and MSP/EMHSD continues. Recently Eric Nischan and Jaclyn Barcroft of EMHSD trained U.S. Civil Air patrol staff along with personnel from the U.S. Coast Guard at WCC.

For more information about WCC, please visit <http://www.wccnet.edu>.

Upcoming Events

Michigan Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Commission (SERC) January 9, 2007

EMHSD Presentation Room, Collins Centre, Lansing, Mich.
Questions can be directed to Diane Laban, 517-333-2749
Email: LabanD@michigan.gov

Hazard Mitigation Coordinating Council January 17, 2007

EMHSD Terrace Room, Collins Centre, Lansing, Mich.
Questions can be directed to Karen Totzke, 517-336-2622
Email: TotzkeK@michigan.gov

No Spills Conference January 22-24, 2007

Holiday Inn, Traverse City, Mich.
Questions can be directed to Dick Catton, 231-271-3580

Great Lakes Homeland Security Conference May 6-8, 2007

DeVos Place, Grand Rapids, Mich.
Questions can be directed to Jackie Hampton, 517-333-5051
Email: hamptonJA@michigan.gov